

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00507 301452Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 L-03 AGRE-00 COME-00
TRSE-00 JUSE-00 /046 W
-----019567 310921Z /13

R 301355Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3045
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: BDIS, EAGR, SOPN, PEPR, SF, US
SUBJ: SUGAR ASSOCIATION "COVER-UP" CASE IN US

REF: A. 77 STATE 170859, B. 77 PRETORIA 3672

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT THE FORMER LOBBYIST FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR ASSOCIATION (SASA), NEW YORK LAWYER JOHN MAHONEY, ADMITTED HE HAD USED THE SA FOUNDATION AS A COVER FOR SOME OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL LOBBYING ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE SASA. MAHONEY REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED IN A CIVIL SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THAT SASA FUNDS HAD BEEN USED TO FINANCE TRIPS OF CONGRESSMEN AND STAFFERS AS WELL AS TO MAKE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING FORMER HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN W.R. POAGE. THE SA FOUNDATION ALSO REPORTEDLY AGREED TO THE SETTLEMENT AND, WITHOUT ADMITTING WRONGDOING, AGREED NOT TO COMMIT SUCH ACTS AGAIN.

2. COMMENT: GIST OF SASA/SAF DEFENSE IS THAT THEY WERE INNOCENTS CAUGHT UP IN A WEB OF REGULATION WITH WHICH THEY PAID A LOBBYIST TO COMPLY. THIS SEEMS TO HAVE SUFFICED WITH THE LOCAL PRESS, WHO HAVE REFRAINED FROM TREATING CASE AS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCANDAL, A LA THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A BRIEF DEPARTMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THIS EPISODE INCLUDING COMMIT ON POSSIBLE SASA/SAF COMPLICITY IN NOT REPORTING LOBBYIST'S ACTIVITIES TO DEPT OF JUSTICE. ASSESSMENT WILL BE VERY USEFUL SINCE POST IS PRACTICALLY CO-LOCATED WITH ELEMENTS OF BOTH GROUPS AND THE SUBJECT INEVITABLY WILL COME UP FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN US.

FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, BRIBERY, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780810/aaaaahrc.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1eb48457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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